

**To:** Wall, Dan[wall.dan@epa.gov]  
**From:** Way, Steven  
**Sent:** Sat 8/8/2015 8:29:26 PM  
**Subject:** Re: MSI Animas River Sampling - 8/6

Dan - if we need to use other mechanisms to fund these folks that may be possible- ie, if they have anything in place a State agency or Fed land management agency. There's a cooperative agreement w CDPHE that could be used to route \$.

Also, it's possible we can have START subcontract directly w MSI.

Steve

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 8, 2015, at 10:11 AM, Wall, Dan <[wall.dan@epa.gov](mailto:wall.dan@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Scott. Per our conversation I will be pursuing getting funding for you and a lab to assist you in identification if you will allow us to expedite the analysis. This data will be very valuable to the agency and of great interest to the public. As you know from our previous collaboration, we have some requirements for us to be able to use the data. Given the circumstances, and our recent work history we ONLY request that you use comparable methods, some comparable locations to what we and you/TU have collected in the past and any SOPs you may have.

As I am sure you are aware, the data from last years event(s) will be highly relevant for assessing the impacts of this accident. We will rely heavily on your expertise in interpretation and do not wish to curtail or influence your intended use or interpretation of the information.

If you intend to replicate locations in the canyon (which I believe may be worthwhile (Cascade&Elk), please let me know if we can help in getting you access from the railroad. They have offered assistance.

I will have a better understanding of our mechanism to fund the BMI work soon, but I am confident we will. We are still in the process of standing up our contracting.

Regarding the water samples, and again as we discussed, we will analyze those results at Green Analytical (or whoever is our current lab) and incorporate them into our data stream.

Please call me when/where you would like to deliver the samples.

At your convenience, please forward any SOPs that describe your water and BMI sampling methods.

Lastly, we would like to extend an invitation to MSI to join the unified command to assist us with sampling and sample design. We can talk more about what that means (Im not sure myself) when you are out of the field.

Scott, we greatly appreciate your initiative to collect these important samples and willingness to work with us to help keep the community and agencies informed.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions or concerns.

Dan

Personal Phone/Ex. 6

**From:** Peter Butler [<mailto:butlerpeter2@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 8:11 PM  
**To:** Wall, Dan; Way, Steven  
**Cc:** Faulk, Libby; Scott Roberts  
**Subject:** MSI Animas River Sampling - 8/6

Dan and Steve – Scott Roberts has undertaken some macroinvertebrate sampling that may be useful for monitoring the impacts of the plume. He is looking for some funding from EPA to finish the effort. Please see below.

Peter Butler

970-259-0986

Personal Phone/Ex. 6

**From:** Scott Roberts [mailto: [Personal Email/Ex. 6](#)]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 3:35 PM  
**To:** Peter Butler  
**Cc:** [Personal Email/Ex. 6](#); [kirstin.brown@state.co.us](#); Aaron Kimple; Marcie Demmy Bidwell  
**Subject:** Re: MSI Animas River Sampling - 8/6

Thanks Bill and Peter.

## **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

In Silverton, I have EPA-funded samples from last fall from the Animas below the confluence with Mineral Creek, and also on the Animas above the confluence at Cement Creek. I would like to re-sample both of these locations now and again in September. I will use the Animas River above Cement Creek as a control, not affected by the sediment plume.

## **Deliberative Process/Ex. 5**

Please let me know your thoughts on this plan and if you think we can coordinate this effort with EPA for funding.

Thank you!

Scott Roberts

[Personal Phone/Ex. 6](#)

On Aug 7, 2015, at 10:07 AM, [Personal Email/Ex. 6](#) wrote:

Hi all,

I wanted to let you all know about MSI's efforts to document the water quality impacts of the Gold King mine drainage in the Animas River in Durango. The sediment plume arrived in Durango at Rotary Park at approximately 10:30 PM on Thursday, August 6.

We collected river water samples at 8 PM, 9 PM, 10 PM, 10:30 PM, 11 PM, 11:30 PM, 12:00 AM, and 12:30 AM.

We collected macroinvertebrate drift sampling at 9 PM, 10:30 PM and 11:30 PM to capture macroinvertebrates that would be drifting downstream in the water column to escape the sediment plume.

We collected quantitative benthic macroinvertebrate samples from Rotary Park and 32nd Street prior to the arrival of the sediment plume. We will resample these two sites in the coming days to document any changes to benthic macroinvertebrate community composition that may occur as a result of the event.

Regarding the water quality samples, we were planning to have the full suite of metals analyzed. Is there any particular analyte that you would like to see analyzed or just the full suite?

We will be seeking funding to process the water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate samples so please let us know if you know of any funding sources for this work.

<image1.JPG>

Thank you,

Scott Roberts

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